

Application No. 10/026,364**Atty Docket No. JGR 1007-1****In the Specification**

Please amend [0061] as follows:

[0061] Figure 18 is a simplified flow chart for a method of updating a self-describing, structured document. The character string 1801 is received. The character string may be encoded according to any of a variety of standards, such as UTF-8. The character string includes an update operator or other indication of the desired operation, a path specification identifying a node or location within a self-describing, structured document, at which the update operator is to be applied, and one or more update values. One update operator may apply to a plurality of path specifications and update values. Alternatively, the update operator may be received as part of the URL that invokes processing or it may be implied by the manner in which the update component is invoked. Update operators may include deleting an element, adding an element before an identified node as a sibling of the node, adding an element after the identified node is a sibling of the node, adding the element as a child of the identified node, or a combination of delete and add to accomplish a move or a replace. Other update operators can be supported. The past specification may be compliant with XPath or a subset of XPath. It is preferred to fully specify the path in absolute, instead of relative terms. Reference to identifying a node in the self-describing, structured document is not meant to imply that the document needs to be manipulated using the document object model or any other tree structured tool. The document can readily be manipulated with SAX-compliant tools or other event-driven tools. The character string is parsed 1802. A self-describing, structured document is accessed 1803. The document has a document type, which may be received or may be obtained from the document itself. The document may be accessed from disk 1811 or may already be resident in memory when the character string is received. XML documents are among those that can be considered self-describing, structured documents. A schema corresponding to the document type of the document is accessed 1804. The schema may be accessed from a database 1812, disk or memory. The schema is used for validating 1804 application of the update operator and update values at the node identified in the past

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specification. The schema may be SOX-compliant, XML schema-compliant, or RELAX-compliant. Other schemas may apply to XML or non-XML documents. Following successful validation, the document is updated 1805 with update values at the node specified in the past specification. In some embodiments, the character string will include a document ID or a binary document ID will be sent in addition to a character string. In other implementations, the document ID will be implied by prior state information, in which case the document may already be in memory. All or part of the document may be accessed via a data-object-model data structure in memory. Any of the embodiments may be used with the past specification that is compliant with any version of an XPath standard. Similarly, any of the embodiments may be used with a schema that is compliant with any version of a Sox standard. In some embodiments, an element set will be constructed, such as a set of fields for a line item in a purchase order. A set of elements associated with a single location or node may be assigned a shorthand or alias and accessed or specified using the shorthand or alias. When an alias is used for a set of elements, more than one update value may be associated with a single ~~[[past]]~~ path specification. In addition to validation against the schema, this process may further involve validation against a business processing rule set. The business processing rules may be selected according to the document type, trading partner, or other criteria. The business processing rules may be implemented by a set of Schematron declarations or may be implemented in procedural logic.